

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 771
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to commend Fred Clark for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member and Chaplain of the Macon County Commission.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fred Clark is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a true son of Macon County, Fred Clark was born in a two-room house next door to his present home on Harris Branch Road; his first memories are of the rough times he and his family experienced during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, as a youth, he attended a county school to which all of the students walked, because there was no other way to get there; a hard worker even at an early age, his first job was starting the fire at the school in the morning before classes began; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Mr. Clark displayed his remarkable musical talents as a country music singer; he and two other men performed on a radio program on WHIN and he also performed at dances and other social gatherings in the area; and

WHEREAS, an eloquent speaker and devoted Christian, Mr. Clark has also served with acumen and alacrity as a preacher; he was an exemplary religious leader and served as pastor of a church for over 22 years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a Macon County Commissioner, Fred Clark has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, he serves astutely as Chairman Pro Tem and also holds the distinction of being the longest serving member of the Commission with 22 years; he also serves with probity as the Chaplain of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the community who were concerned with the road conditions in the county, approached Mr. Clark and urged him to run for the County Commission, then known as the Quarterly Court in 1978; the rest, as they say, is history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years of his dedicated service on the Macon County Commission, Mr. Clark has focused on improving the quality of roads and he estimates that two and a half million dollars of road and bridge work has been performed in the Third District alone, during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, in addition to roads, Mr. Clark has taken a genuine interest in the county's school system; and

WHEREAS, he appreciates and supports the value of quality education; his own children have succeeded academically: two of the four hold college degrees, and all four children are high school graduates; he feels the citizens of Macon County should do everything possible to provide their children with a good education; and

WHEREAS, as one reflects on Mr. Clark's voting record, his commitment to education is obvious; he can always be counted on to help the School Board pass their budget, while making the appropriate adjustments to create a sensible and realistic proposal; and

WHEREAS, Fred Clark's neighbors, Keith and Jett Williams, paid tribute to his dedication to education by establishing a scholarship in Fred and Ruth Clark's honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Clark are overjoyed to see children who might not have otherwise had the opportunity, to pursue their goals through higher education; the scholarship's funds are raised primarily through a concert that Jett and Keith perform every year, in conjunction with their friends in the country music industry; and

WHEREAS, Fred Clark finds it most fitting that the scholarship's name should also honor his wife, Ruth; he humbly credits his wife with the success and harmony they have enjoyed during their 55 years together; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Clark were joined in matrimony in 1944 and Mr. Clark proclaims: "She is as pretty now as she was then, and I love her just as much"; and

WHEREAS, early in their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Clark worked in sewing factories before they opened their own facility in Hartsville; and

WHEREAS, they moved to Westmoreland in 1972, and at one time employed as many as 80 people at their successful business, C & C Sportswear; the family business is still in operation today under the able guidance of their three sons; still dedicated to the business, Mr. and Mrs. Clark come in and work every day; and

WHEREAS, Fred Clark is a an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor in Macon County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Mr. Fred Clark for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as a Macon County Commissioner and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.